

American Pie – Don McClean 1971 (Page 1 of 2)

INTRO: (Each chord in Intro is one-strum)

G D Em7 Am7 C Em D
 A long long time ago I can still remember how that music used to make me smile
 G D Em7 Am7 C
 And I knew if I had my chance that I could make those people dance
 Em C D Em Am
 And maybe they'd be happy for a while But February made me shiver
 Em Am C G Am C D
 With every paper I'd deliver Bad news on the doorstep I couldn't take one more step
 G D Em Am7 D G D
 I can't remember if I cried when I read about his widowed bride but something touched
 Em C D7 G
 Me deep inside the day the music died *[first chorus slow, then speed up]* -- **So**

C H O R U S	G C G D G C G D Bye bye miss American Pie drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry G C G D Them good ol' boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye Em(one strum) A7 Em(one strum) D7 Singin' this'll be the day that I die this'll be the day that I die
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[FASTER]

G Am C Am Em
 Did you write the book of love and do you have faith in God above if
 D G D Em Am7
 The bible tells you so now do you believe in rock 'n' roll can music
 C Em A7 D
 Save your mortal soul and can you teach me how to dance real slow~
 Em(one strum) D(one strum) Em(one strum) D(one strum)
 Well I know that you're in love with him 'cause I saw you dancin' in the gym
 C G A7 C D7
 You both kicked off your shoes man I dig those rhythm & blues I was a
 G D Em Am C
 Lonely teenage broncin' buck with a pink carnation and a pickup truck
 G D Em C D7 G-C-G D7
 But I knew I was out of luck - the day the music died I started singin' **[CHORUS]**
 G Am C Am
 Now for ten years we been on our own and moss grows fat on a rollin' stone
 Em D G D Em
 But that's not how it used to be when the jester sang for the King and Queen
 Am7 C Em A7
 In a coat he borrowed from James Dean and a voice that came from you
 D Em(one strum) D(one strum) Em(one strum) D(one-strum)
 And me~ and while the King was looking down the jester stole his thorny crown
 C G A7 C D7 G
 The courtroom was adjourned no verdict was returned and while Lenin
 D Em Am C G D
 Read a book on Marx the quartet practiced in the park and we sang dirges
 Em C D7 G-C-G D7
 In the dark - the day the music died we were singin' **[NEXT PAGE]**

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C H O R U S	G C G D G C G D
	Bye bye miss American Pie drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
	G C G D
	Them good ol' boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
	Em (one strum) A7 Em (one strum) D7
	Singin' this'll be the day that I die this'll be the day that I die

(Ending: C D G C-G)

G Am C Am
Helter skelter in a summer swelter the birds flew off with a fallout shelter
Em D G D Em Am7
Eight miles high and fallin' fast~ It landed foul on~ the grass the players
C Em A7 D
Tried for a forward pass with the jester on the sidelines in a cast~ Now the
Em (one strum) D (one strum) Em (one strum) D (one-strum)
Halftime air was sweet perfume while the sergeants played a marching tune
C G A7 C D7 G
We all got up to dance but we never got the chance 'cause the players
D Em Am C G D
Tried to take the field the marching band refused to yield do you recall
Em C D7 G-C-G D7
What was revealed - the day the music died We started singin' **[CHORUS]**
G Am C Am
And there we were all in one place a generation lost in space
Em D G D Em
With no time left to start again so come on Jack be nimble Jack be quick
Am7 C Em A7 D
Jack Flash sat on a candlestick 'cause fire is the Devil's only friend
Em (one strum) D (one strum) Em (one strum) D (one-strum)
And as I watched him on the stage my hands were clenched in fists of rage
C G A7 C D7 G
No angel born in hell could break that Satan's spell and as the flames
D Em Am C G
Climbed high in to the night to moonlight the sacrificial rite I saw Satan
D Em C D7 G-C-G D7
laughing with delight- the day the music died He was singin' **[CHORUS]**

[SLOW:] (Each chord in Outro is one-strum)

G D Em Am C Em
I met a girl who sang the blues and I asked her for some happy news but she
D G D Em Am7
Just smiled and turned away I went down to the sacred store where I'd heard
C Em C D
The music years before but the man there said the music wouldn't play~
Em Am Em Am
But in the streets the children screamed the lovers cried & the poets dreamed
C G Am7 C D G
But not a word was spoken the church bells all were broken and the three
D Em Am7 C D7 G
Men I admire most the Father Son and the Holy Ghost they caught the last
Em Am7 D7 G n.c.
Train for the coast - the day the music died and they were singin' **[CHORUS TWICE]**